

### Tom Hollingsworth's Letter

\* Mr. LeRoy Steiner Hollingsworth of Sherrill, New York, sent two copies of old letters his neighbour Mr. Northrup had found in April of 1970, up in his attic. "How they got in his attic is still a mystery because his name is Northrup and as far as we know is not related to the Hollingsworths." Your editor happens to know, however, that the brot-

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her of the Thomas Hollingsworth of the following letter, William Hollingsworth, had a step-daughter Mary Northrup, with whom he lived at the time he died in 1905, last survivor of his family. The letters possibly found their way into the Northrup home at that time.

We present a complete copy. The writing is clear and bold, but the grammar and spelling are lamentable. There is not a comma or a period in the whole piece. The letter was written upon one sheet of paper about 16 by 10 inches, then folded down to form a rectangle of about 3 inches by 2½ inches and sealed. No postage stamps were used in the United States until 1847. Only a postmark (illegible in our Xerox copy) is shown. The cost of delivery was between 8 and 25 cents in those days, depending on the distance and district. The word "find" (sic) is written on the cover.

Thomas Hollingsworth, the man who wrote the letter, was just 24 at the time. He died one year and a day later (March 6, 1844) and is buried in Spring (Pratt's) Cemetery in Eaton, Madison County. The place from which he wrote was probably near Brockville, in Leeds County, Ontario, Canada.

March The 5. 1843

Cover: Mr. Saamuel Hollingsworth - Town of Eaton - County of Madison-  
In care of Morrisville

Dear Father I Imbrace this Present oppertunity to Address these Few lines to you Hoping that this Will Find you in good Helth As it leves Me At Presant Thanks Be To God For it I Never inoid Better Helth in my life then I Have This Winter I received your leathers The 16 (?6) of January and I was verry glad to (Hea)r From you I went out to My Aunts And They ware verry glad to Hear From you They Are all well and Samuel Whitmore is Coming home With Me This spring and Mr William Whitmore and Familey Are well Mr. John Redmond and Familey Are well and The A Aunt godkin and Familey are well Mr Henery bolton and Familey Are well and he is Married Mr. Robert Tackaberry and wife are well Mr John stacy end Family are well but His little girl has lost the use of one of her legs by a Pain that Th Tuck her Aand one of my Aunt twins Has lost the use of one of her legs By A Pain that Tuck her and she At School (Page 2) Mr John ears (?) And familey Are well and My Cosin Thomas Hollingsworth is Married to a Miss Craft and he lives in the ~~NY~~ (sic) Tenth Concession and Has Two Hundred and Fifty Acers of land and his Wife Mother lives with Him and their is Another Cousin By The name of Mrs. lee She was mared To Another Cousin by the name of Edward earl on The second day of March I attended The wedon That ser-tain Farm it Can Be Bought For Two Thousand dollars Their (is) Two Fram Barrns And A large frame Shed and two Farme Houses and Two springs and A large stream of water and Their is Two Hundred and Fifty acres of land and their is About seventy achers of Clearing and their is A sawmill that(t) joins the farm I shall go and see it and S(ee) what his terms are and he is a yankey he dont like the govern-ment and I think it is A verry Cheap farm and I want you if you see George Caron to tell him that I will bild his place as Cheap as any one And I inquired of my aunt and She told me that james sumers died the next week after you (Page 3) After you (sic) started from home and John godkin end family are well and he lives in Brockvill and wone of Charly digason boise died last week with Consumetion and their is two more sick now and I work for A Mr Dewey and he boards me gives me

eight dollars A month month (sic) I hire with him till the first of April and he wants me to stay with him all summer but I shall be home the first of may I dont know but the last of april and I (torn) the Papers to you and I wa(n)t to k(n)ow will you wright to me you would let me know wheather you have got that money or not and I want you to let me know wheather you have got that money or not that of Summers and I want to know how that exicution of Frratt and Madison and I have not yet been homesick and I like the Place verry well I y' (sic) rather live hear then their and I think I will work hear next winter.

I (sic) I Send my loave to you and mother And my brothers and sisters And I shall ever remember you all -  
(Thomas Hollingsworth)

(Stacey, Bolton, Godkin, Earl, Lee, Dickenson, Crafts, Redmond, Tack-aberry, and Ayres are County Wexford, Ireland, names, and were all in one way or another related there, to our Hollingsworths. The only person mentioned in the above letter who is definitely known from other sources is Thomas Hollingsworth who married Deborah A. Crafts, the daughter of John and Margaret Crafts. See HR Volume 1, pp. 189 and 190, for his family enumeration in the 1851 and 1861 census of the 10th Concession of Elizabethtown, Leeds County, Canada. His mother-in-law did live with him, and she is in both enumerations! (Such is life.)

This Thomas who wrote the 1843 letter was the child of Samuel & Esther (Hollingsworth) Hollingsworth. From this, it is virtually impossible at present, to tell on which side of the house his aunts and cousins mentioned, belonged.

One other letter was used by two men, John Redmond and Henry Bolton, to write a letter dated July 25, 1842, from "Elizabethtown" to Samuel Hollingsworth. They are both purely business and contain almost no genealogy. Both were evidently written by Henry Bolton.

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